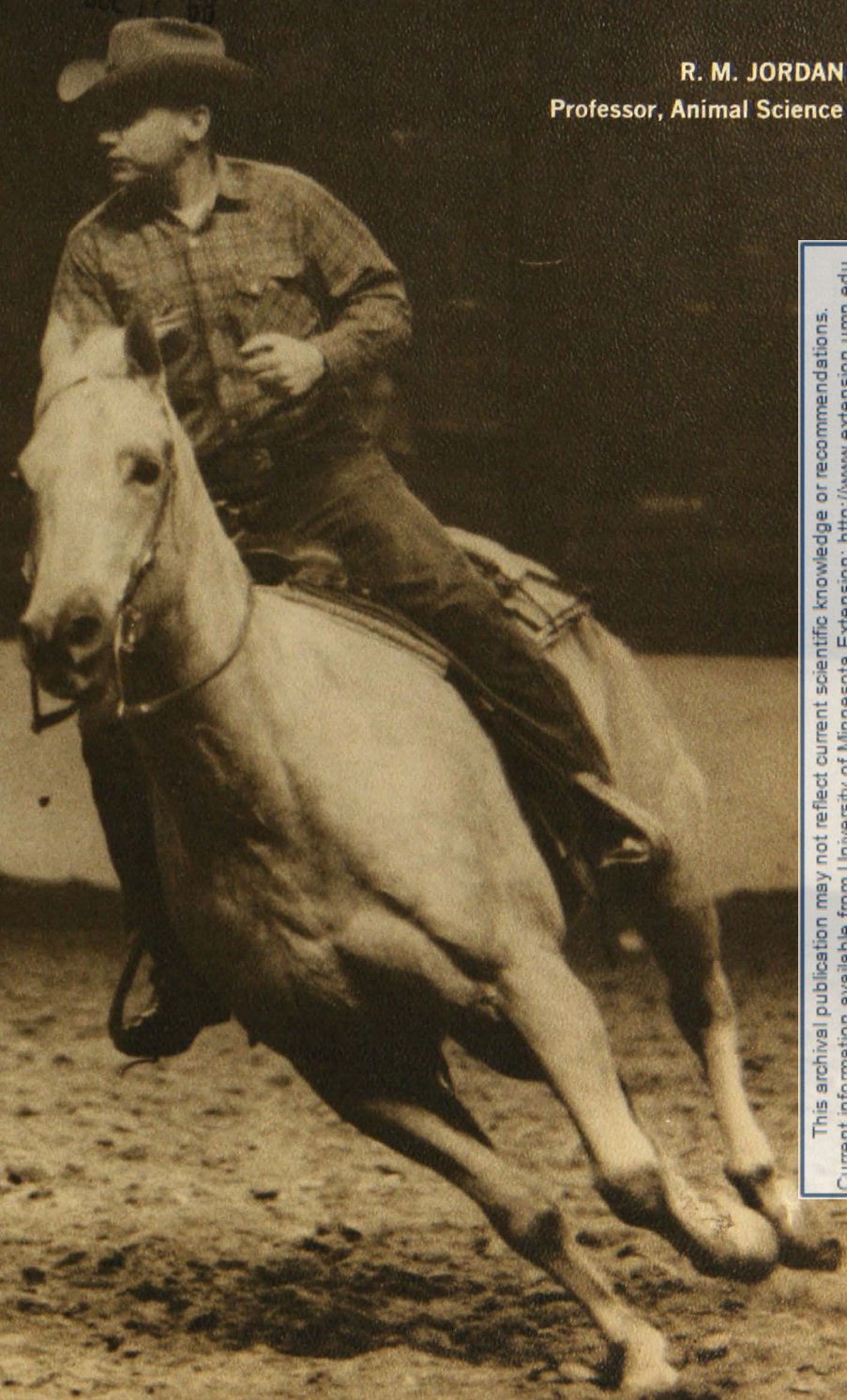


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Selecting Your Horse

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Pride of ownership and accomplishment is evident with this young rider and her Quarter Horse.

Photos courtesy of Jack Brainerd, Diamond B Ranch, Rochester, Minn., and Kanttall Stables, Hamel, Minn.

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Selecting Your Horse

R. M. JORDAN

Soundness of wind and limb, style, animation and beautiful form, coupled with spritely and true action is what horse selection is all about. Since there is such a variety of type, color, size, and disposition in horses and ponies, it shouldn't be hard to find a suitable mount.

In horse selection, the first questions to answer are—

What use will be made of the horse? Will the horse be suitable for the person who is going to use him? Is the horse trained?

Reading a bulletin will not make you an accomplished judge of horses, but a brief description of such points as desired type, breeds, gaits, and unsoundness may be a useful guide and may avoid later disappointments.

Breeds and Use Classification

Riding horses can be placed in two general categories: stock type (ridden with a western or stock saddle and western-type bit) and pleasure type (usually an American Saddle Horse type ridden with a flat or English-type saddle). These categories are usually, but not always, represented by specific breeds. Often horses may be of different breeds, yet used for the same purpose. However, some breeds have been developed to a point where they excel other breeds for a specific use. For example, the Thoroughbred surpasses all breeds at top speed running, while the American Saddle Horse excels other breeds in the gaited classes.

A broad classification of the breeds and their usual use, based on conventional horse show classes, is given in table 1.

Parts of the horse

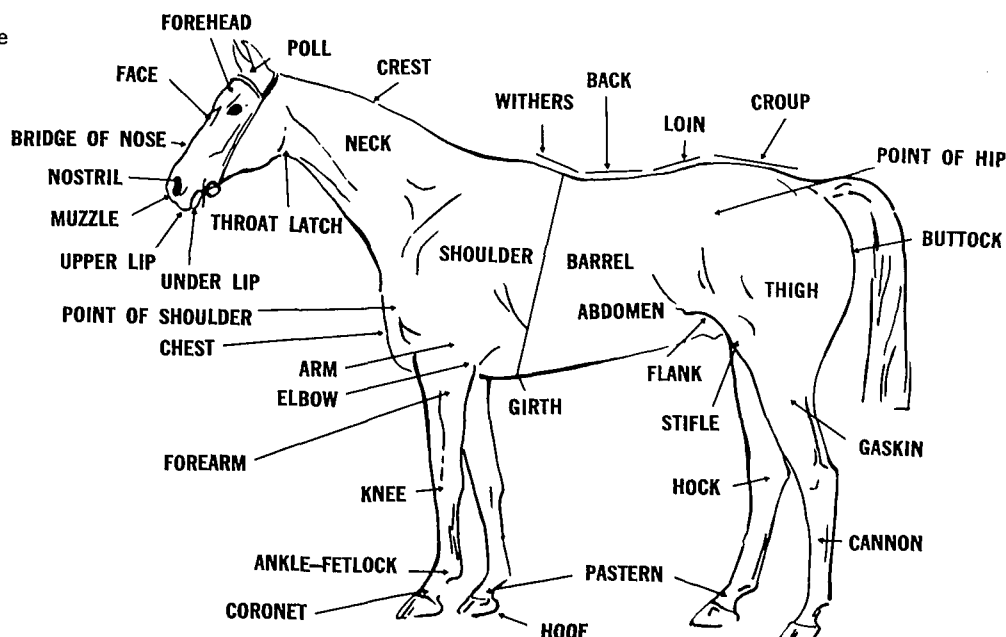


Figure 1.

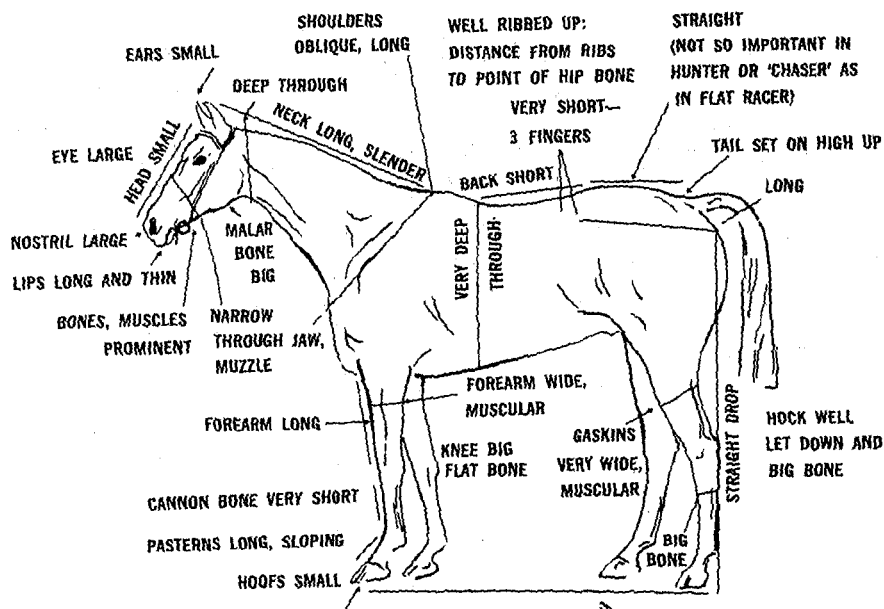


Figure 2.
Desired horse traits

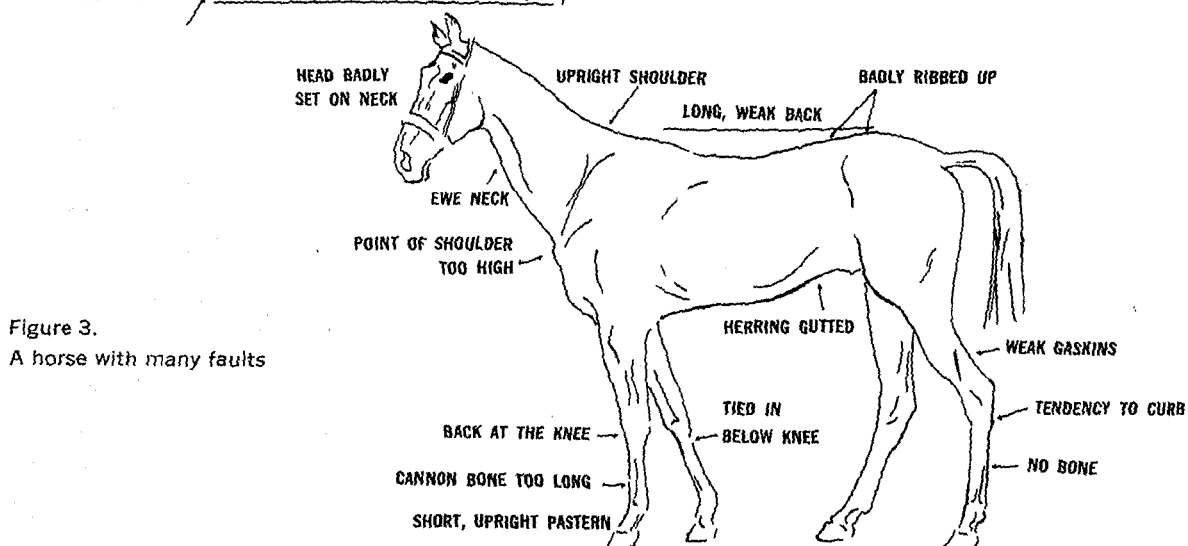


Figure 3.
A horse with many faults

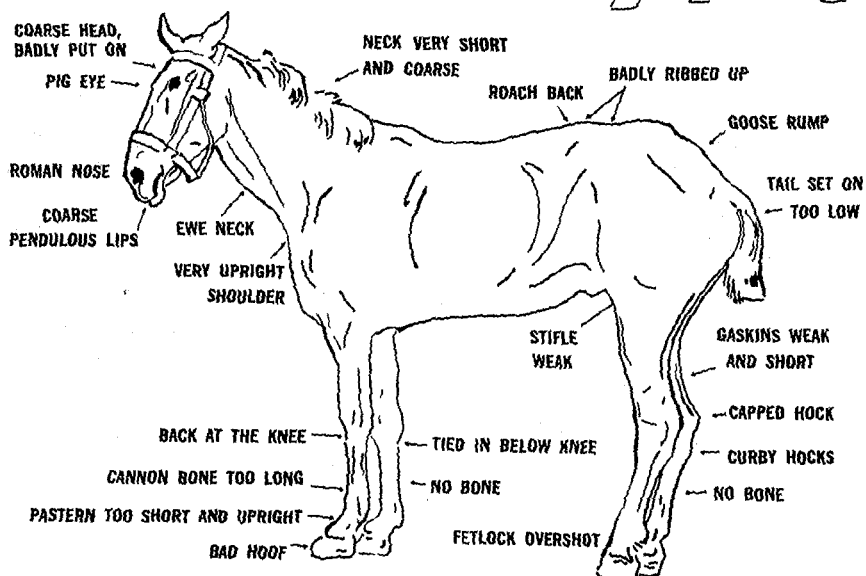


Figure 4.
Tendency toward unsoundness



Most of the apparent attributes of the ideal Quarter Horse—power, speed, quality, beauty and disposition—are captured in one painting by Darol Dickinson, artist.

Table 1. General use and breed classification

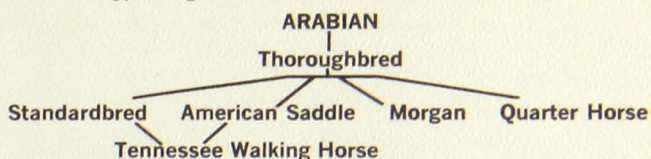
USE	BREED	DISTINGUISHING SHOW RING FEATURES
Riding Horses		
Three-gaited	American Saddle Horse predominates	Roached mane and tail
Five-gaited	American Saddle Horse	Long mane and tail, quarter boots
Walking	Tennessee Walking Horse	Long mane and tail, quarter boots
Hunters and jumpers	Any breed though pure or high grade Thoroughbreds predominate	Short, braided mane and tail
Stock (or Westerns)	Quarter, Arabian, Morgan, Palomino, Thoroughbred, Appaloosa, Pinto	Usually shown with roached mane, with mane on withers and foretop left long
Miscellaneous		
Bridle Path (Pleasure Horse)	Any breed, other than stock type	
Saddle type	Usually American Saddle Horse	
Hunter type (Hacks)	Usually Thoroughbred	Braided mane and tail
Western Pleasure	Any breed or combination of breeds—Quarter Horses predominate; includes Arabians, Morgans, Palominos, Appaloosas, and Pintos	
Parade Horses	Any breed, color breeds predominate (Palominos, Appaloosas, Pintos), and Arabians, American Saddle Horse	Shown with much silver and decorative trappings
Driving Horses		
Fine Harness	American Saddle Horse	Long mane and tail
Heavy Harness	Hackney	Docked tail and short mane
Roadsters	Standardbred	Long mane and tail
Hitched to a buggy or road wagon, or to a bike (sulky)		
Ponies*		
Riding Ponies	Shetland, maximum height 11.2 hands (46 inches); Welsh, Hackney, Pony of America, or crossbreds, not over 14.2 hands (58 inches) and usually under 14 hands	
Saddle (English equipment)		
Hunting (English equipment)		
Western (Western equipment)		
Parade	Any breed or combination of breeds of ponies	
Driving Ponies		
Shetlands (Harness)	Shetland, 11.2 hands (46 inches) and under	
Hitched to buggy or bike (sulky)		
Harness (long mane and tail)	Usually crossbreds: Shetland x Hackney, or Welsh x Hackney, 12.2 hands (50 inches) and under	
Hitched to a buggy		
Hackney	Hackney, usually 14 hands (56 inches) or under	Short mane and docked tail
Hitched to a buggy		
Race Horses		
Trotting and running	Standard bred, Thoroughbred, and Quarter Horses (racing type)	

* Ponies measure 14.2 hands or under; horses 14.2 hands or over. Measurement is from the ground to the top of the withers. One hand = 4 inches.

Breed Relationship

The accompanying diagram gives a very broad genealogy of the popular breeds of light horses (pleasure horses). Assuming that the Arabian is the oldest breed of light horse type, then in turn, the Thoroughbred was developed by combining Arabian blood with selected native English mares; the Morgan, American Saddle, and Standardbred horse were developed from the Thoroughbred; the Tennessee Walking Horse came from a specific strain of Standardbred and American Saddle Horses. Obviously the diagram over-simplifies the development of these breeds which are quite separate and distinct as we know them today.

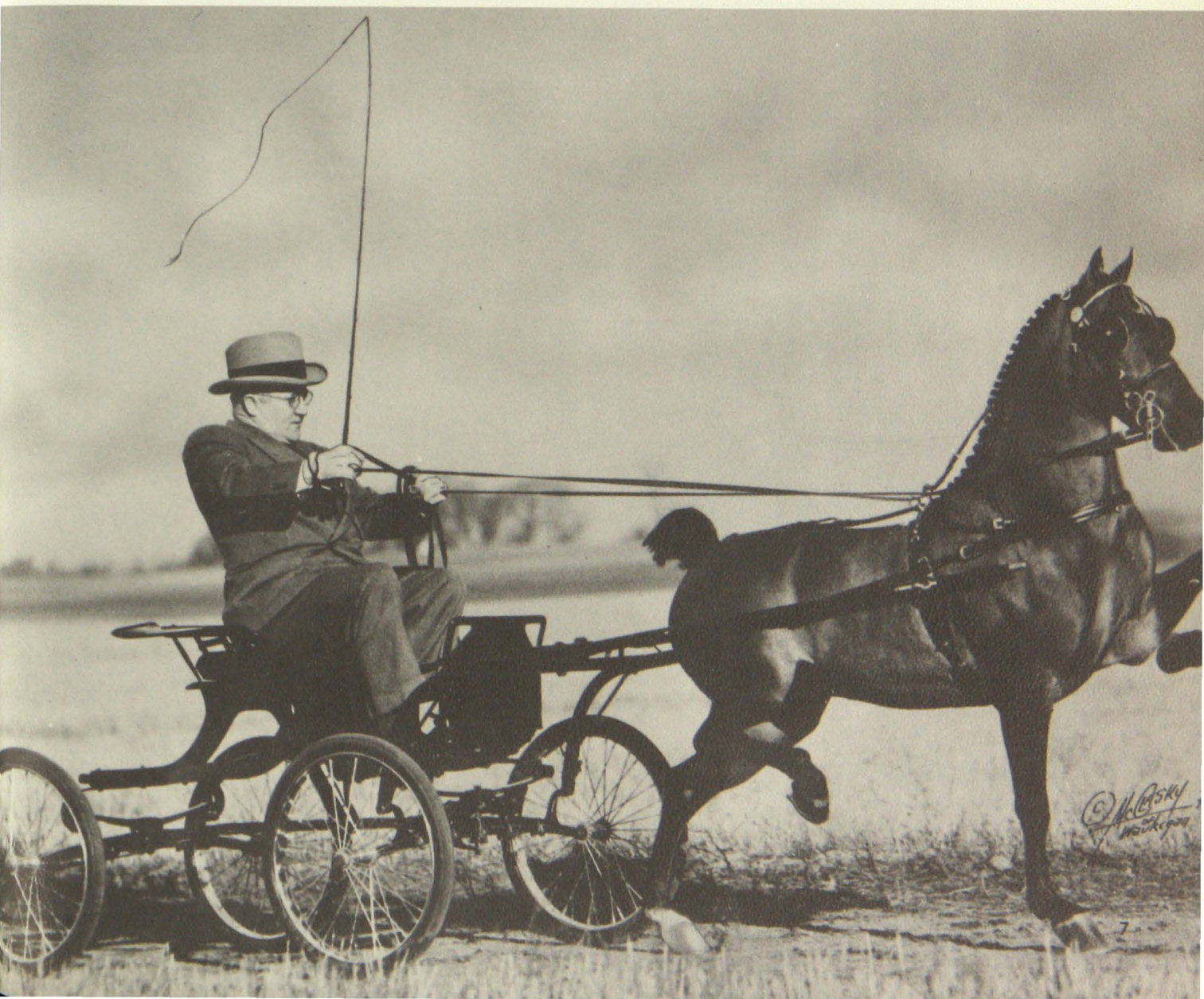
Genealogy of prominent breeds of horses:



Special Attributes of Different Breeds

Usually people have a definite preference for a specific breed or type of horse or pony. They may prefer the Arabian for its unusual beauty, quality, and spirit. But, Arabians often have more spirit than many people can handle and may be smaller and lighter than is suitable for a large man to ride.

Typical Hackney Action. Note the extreme flexion of the knee and hock. This pony has an expressive ear, strong top, level croup, and a world of quality about the joints and cannon bone. The docked tail and short braided mane are standard for a show hackney.





Arabians are solid-colored often with white on the legs and the face though bitten grays (white with black or brown tick marks) are common. The skin is black: black should show around the eyes and muzzle. Characteristically, Arabians have a slight dished face. Quality and refinement of the head, neck, and legs are the hallmarks of the breed. A reputation for endurance and the characteristic high tail carriage are known worldwide.

The **Thoroughbred** is selected for its speed and adaptability and is used for almost any purpose though not in a gaited class. Thoroughbreds vary in size and are usually big, strong, well-muscled horses. However, their nervous temperament often makes them, like the Arabian, more horse than many people can handle. Their willingness, speed, size (15-17 hands), and ability make them ideal jumpers.

The **American Saddle Horse** excels in the gaited class, but also makes an excellent pleasure horse and may be used for stock work. They have long necks and level croups, high quality, and lots of "fire and nerve." Beauty and action are their long suits and as show horses they have few equals. However, they require much training and special shoeing to perform at their best advantage in the show ring.

The **Tennessee Walking Horse** is truly a pleasure horse with a good disposition. Usually they are stronger about the head, heavier-boned, and carry their heads lower than the American Saddle Horse, and have some set or excessive angle at the hocks. Their usual gait, the running walk, entitles them to special classes in horse shows. This same gait makes them a pleasure to ride whether in or out of the show ring. They have some of the same drawbacks as American Saddle Horses: they require considerable training and special and regular re-shoeing. Walking horses vary in color. Roan is quite common and horses with considerable white on the face, legs, and belly are frequently seen.

The **Quarter Horse** is the most popular stock horse in the United States. Most horse shows provide special Quarter Horse classes in reining, cutting, and barrel races. In addition, a good disposition, adaptability for many uses, simple shoeing requirements, and easy keeping qualities make them an ideal western pleasure horse. Heavy, showy muscling (bull-dog type) was at one time desired. A taller, better-moving horse is now preferred.

The **Morgan** is another breed well adapted to a variety of uses with many shows having special Morgan classes for riders who prefer either Western



A Colorful Appaloosa. This horse is being shown in a Western Pleasure or equitation class.

or English equipment. In some respects Morgans are more versatile than either the American Saddle Horse or Quarter Horse. Taller (15 to 15.3 hands), better-moving Morgans are now preferred. Chestnut, bay, and black are the usual colors.

Palominos, Appaloosas, and Pintos are popular breeds with distinctive color patterns and may represent either the western stock horse or a type more closely resembling the American Saddle Horse. The Palomino does not breed true to color though the Appaloosa and Pinto colors are quite easy to establish and maintain through selective breeding.

The **Shetland Pony**, at a maximum height of 11.2 hands (46 inches); and the **Welsh pony**, and

Pony of America, usually 13.2 hands (54 inches) and under; are popular youngsters' ponies. The Welsh pony (often gray or solid colored with white on the face and legs) is well suited for childrens' hunter and jumper classes. The Shetland comes in a variety of colors and is used in various driving classes (hitched to buggies or sulkies) besides being an excellent riding pony for small youngsters. The ideal pony should resemble a miniature saddle horse rather than a miniature draft horse, as was once the style.

For detailed information about the various breeds of horses and ponies, refer to library books and journals under categories of breeds of horses or breeds of livestock.



Appearance and Conformation

The expression, general appearance, refers to and includes the horse's balance and symmetry of body parts, carriage of head and ears, and style. Each owner hopes these traits add up favorably. While appearance is mostly esthetic, it is probably the largest single contributing factor to the value of the horse and to the pleasure of being a horse owner.

Figure 1 shows the parts of the horse and the nomenclature used in referring to them. Familiarity with these terms will aid the reader's understanding.

Conformation, the form or structure, has a bearing on how well the horse functions or performs and this affects value and use. Figures 2, 3, and 4 tell more than a thousand words could about desirable and undesirable traits. While figure 2 illustrates desired traits, irrespective of the breed, it does not mean it is a true representative of all breeds. As an American Saddle Horse, figure 2 is quite representative; as a Quarter Horse or Thoroughbred, it's quite lacking. The latter two breeds call for more muscling, especially in the forearm, gaskin, and through the stifle region. Actually muscling, es-

pecially through the rear quarters, is important in all breeds. Muscling in this area is what gives horses their power. Viewed from behind, all horses should have as much width (muscle) through the center and lower part of the quarter as on top.

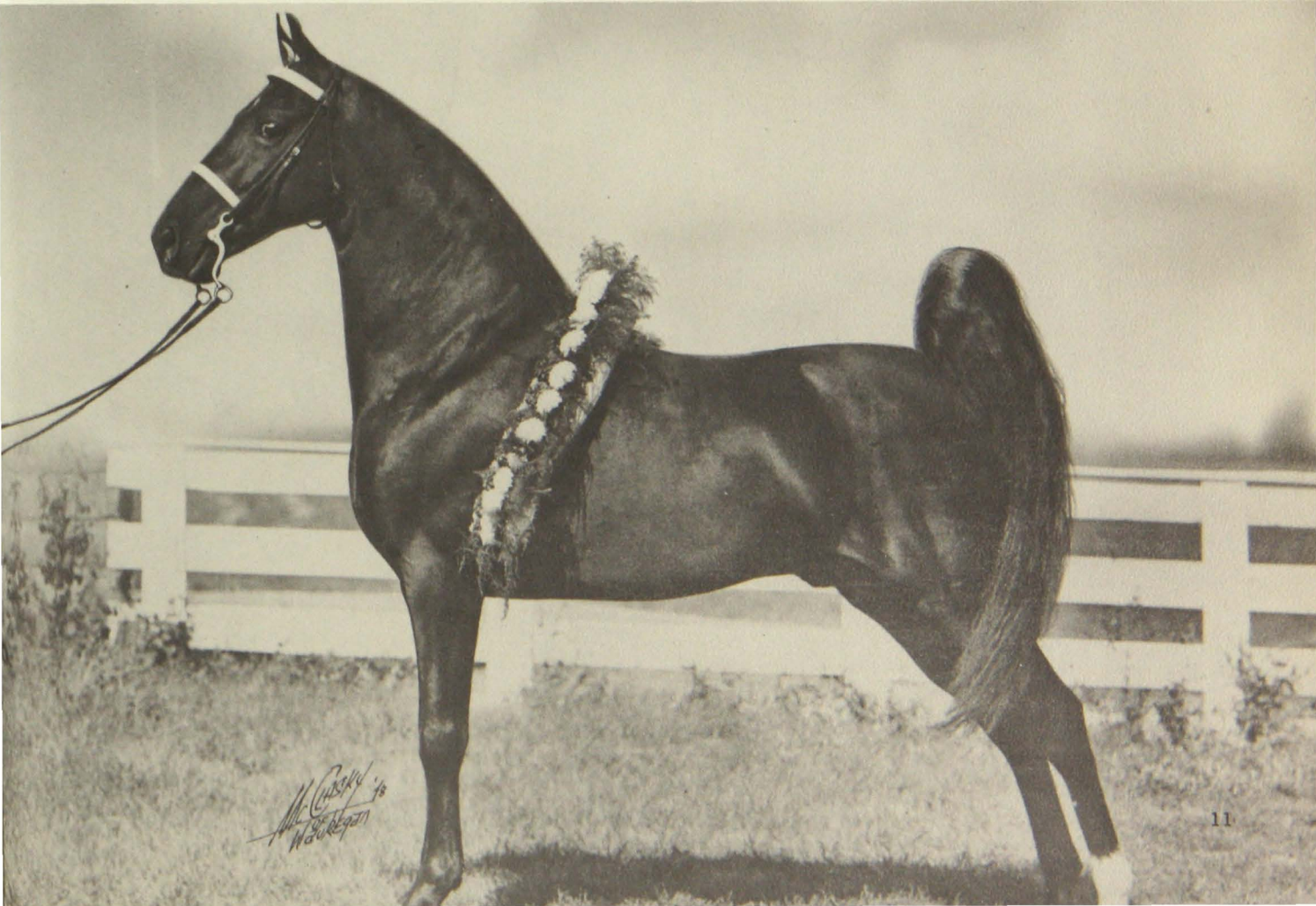
Figure 3 shows a horse with many faults. This type too often is difficult to keep in good condition and certainly lacks eye appeal.

Figure 4 shows a horse that is extremely coarse about the head and neck. The steep shoulders and pasterns make for a hard ride and a tendency toward unsoundness.

Judging

To properly appraise or judge horses they should be viewed from at least three positions, front, side, and rear. Figures 7, 8, 9, 10 show what to expect and what to look for when viewing horses from these positions. Emphasis is placed on the set of feet and legs. It's essential to be able to recognize when a horse has a fault in the way he sets on his legs as this definitely determines how he will move. A crooked legged horse can't move true. Regardless

A Champion Tennessee Walking Horse has a wonderful slope to the shoulder and shows lots of quality.



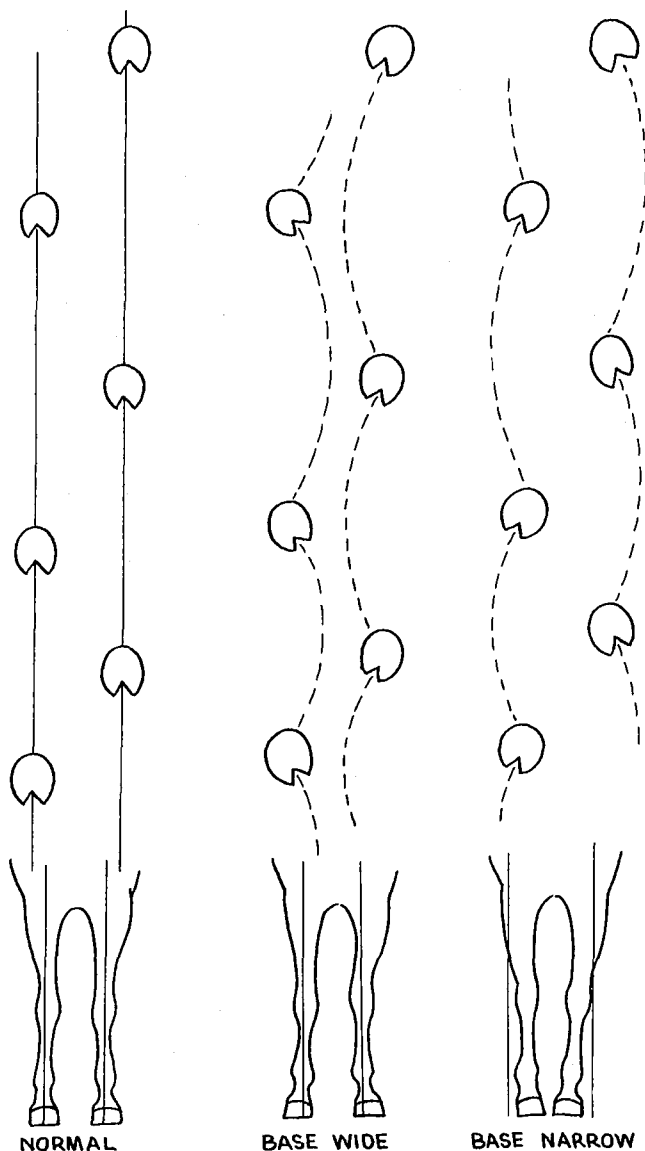


Figure 5. How a horse stands is indicative of how he will move. The normal stance, with width between the legs in proportion to the width of the chest and feet placed straight, results in the legs and feet moving in a straight line. A base wide horse, particularly if he also toes out, moves his feet and legs in or wings in with each stride. If the condition is severe he is most apt to strike one leg with the other resulting in injury and even unsoundness. Base narrow, with toes pointing in, results in a horse that paddles. It's unsightly, results in excessive hoof wear on the outside quarters and results in excessive strain on the knee, fetlocks and tendons.

of a horse's excellent head, neck, shoulder, top, and general balance and conformation, if he is crooked on his legs, he is not a top horse.

Also give close scrutiny, at the time you are viewing the legs, to unsoundness. Observe the pas-

terns, cannon bones, knees, and especially the hocks for any swelling or protuberance that is out of the ordinary.

The following conformation features affect action and gaits and may be predisposing to certain unsoundnesses:

A long forearm contributes to a long stride.

Sloping shoulders and pasterns are associated with a springy stride.

If a horse stands straight, he is likely to move straight and true. If the legs are set properly, he is better able to move with collected action. (See figure 5.)

A calf-kneed (back at the knees) posture is associated with hard concussion or a pounding gait.

Low rounding withers are associated with a defective gait called forging. A horse with low withers commonly hangs in the bridle, moves with head low, and handles the front feet awkwardly.

A pigeon-toed horse will paddle or wing out. Conversely, a splay-footed (heels in, toes out) horse will wing in and may actually interfere—the striding leg striking the supporting leg. In addition, hooves wear unevenly. (See figure 5.)

Hocks out means the horse will move with limber hock or wobbly or rotating hock.

Short, steep ankles and pasterns result in a stilted stride, hard concussion, and a tendency to cocked ankles and unsoundness.

Front legs out at the corner or too wide in front is a structural defect which is associated with a rolling motion when the horse moves.

A short, thick, bulky neck too often goes with a straight shoulder and reduces neck suppleness and mobility and the rider's ease of control of the horse.

A short straight shoulder and forearm, accompanied with steep pasterns, results in a short stride and a tendency toward sidebones.

Buck-knees and long toes cause stumbling.

Nervous and continuous movement of the ears may mean impaired vision; protruding or bulging eyes, called pop eyes, usually indicate nearsightedness.

Sickle hocks detract from the horse's appearance, affect action and often are associated with a steep croup and curbiness. Conversely, hocks that are too straight indicate crampiness and greater likelihood for the horse to go out at the stifle joint.

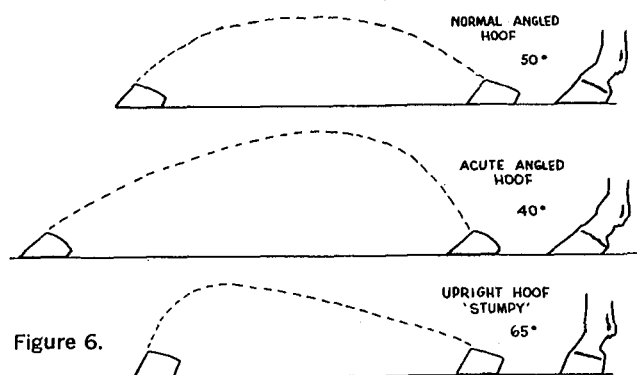


Figure 6.

Gaits and Action

A gait may be defined as a way of going. It is characterized by distinctive features, regularly executed. Action, however, refers to flexion of the knees and hocks, the height the horse lifts his feet from the ground, the speed or rate of movement, and length of stride.

A horse's stride has the following components:

Length—distance from point of breaking over to the point of contact with the ground.

Directness or trueness—the line in which the foot is carried forward during the stride. A horse that paddles would not be carrying his feet straight forward during the stride. (See figure 5.)

Rapidity or promptness.

Power—the pulling force exerted.

Height—indicated by the radius of the arc created from the point of the foot's take off to the point of the foot's contact again with the ground. (See figure 6.)

Spring—the manner in which weight settles back on the supporting leg at the completion of the stride.

Regularity—the rhythmic precision of each stride.

Balance—the ability of a horse to coordinate action and go collectedly and in form.

The gaits may be described briefly as follows:

Walk—slow, flatfooted four-beat gait that should be executed true and with snappy action.

Trot—two-beat gait with the diagonal fore and hindleg action together. The road horse trot is a fast stepping trot—characterized by length and rapidity and executed with extreme degree of extension or length of stride. Heavy harness trot and hackney trot are high stepping with a high and springy stride, very collected and executed with each step showing extreme flexion and precision.

Pace—two-beat lateral gait with fore and hindleg on the same side moving together. There is a minimum of concussion and more or less a side or rolling motion with little knee fold. It requires a smooth, hard footing and a minimum of draft. Trotting downhill will cause some trotters to pace; pacing uphill will cause some pacers to trot. The pace is a speed gait.

Amble—a lateral gait distinguished from the pace by being slower and more broken in cadence. It is not a show gait.

Slow gait—or stepping pace (a show gait) is a lateral four-beat gait done under restraint in showy animated fashion with front foot on the right followed by hind foot on the right.

Rack—a fast flashy four-beat diagonal gait. It is sometimes called a single foot and is characterized by quite a display of knee action and speed. It's hard on the horse, easy on the rider.

Gallop—a fast three-beat gait in which two diagonal legs are paired. One hind foot makes the first beat, the other hind foot and a diagonal forefoot, the second beat and the remaining forefoot, the third beat.

Canter—three-beat gait done under restraint. The sequence of the hoof beat is the same as in the gallop. Canter, the horse carries more weight on the haunches or rear quarter. The forehand is lightened, the chin is set, and the gait is executed in a slow, animated, collective, rhythmic way in which the lead changes on command. If moving to the left, the horse should lead with his left and vice versa. If a horse is cantering to the right and leading with a left front, the horse is guilty of a cross-legged canter.

Running walk—a slow single-foot or four-beat diagonal gait with a break in the impact or rhythm occurring between the diagonal fore and hindfeet. There is considerable over-reaching with the hind legs. In the stepping pace, which is also a slow-four-beat gait, the break in rhythm is between the lateral fore and rear foot.

Defects and Peculiarities in Gait

Forging—striking the end of the branches or the undersurface of the shoe of the forefoot with the toe of the hindfoot (diagonal foot in pacers, lateral foot in trotters).

Interfering—striking the supporting leg, usually at the fetlock with the foot of the striding leg. Interference commonly occurs between the supporting

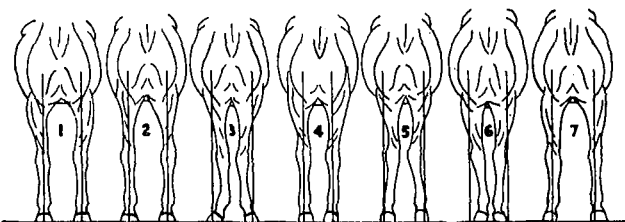


Figure 7. Front View of Fore Limbs. A perpendicular line drawn downward from the point of shoulder should fall upon the center of the knee, cannon, pastern, and foot: 1, represents the correct conformation; 2-7, represent common defects; 2, slightly bow-legged; 3, close at knees, toes out; 4, toes in; 5, knock-kneed; 6, base narrow; 7, base wide.

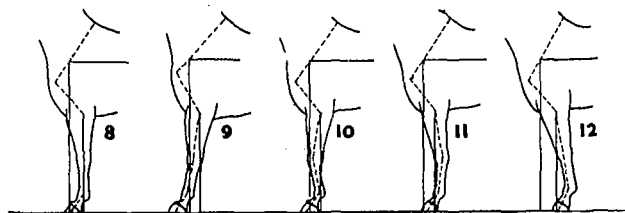


Figure 8. Side View of Fore Limbs. A perpendicular line drawn downward from the center of the elbow point should fall upon the center of the knee and pastern, and back of the foot. A perpendicular line downward from the middle of the arm should fall upon the center of the foot: 8, represents the right conformation; 9, leg too far forward; 10, knee sprung; 11, calf kneed; 12, foot and leg placed too far back.

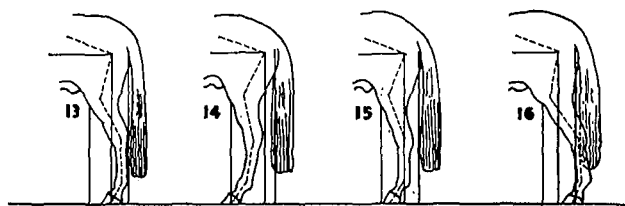


Figure 9. Side View of Hind Limbs. A perpendicular line, drawn downward from the hip point should fall upon the center of the foot and divide the gaskin in the middle; and a perpendicular line drawn from the point of the buttock should just touch the upper rear point of the hock and fall barely behind the rear line of the cannon and fetlock. Correct position of the leg from this view is most important in a horse: 13, represents the correct conformation; 14, leg too far forward and hock crooked; 15, entire leg too far under and weak below hock; 16, entire leg placed too far back.

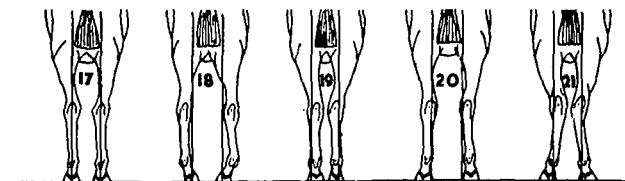


Figure 10. Rear View of Hind Limbs. A perpendicular line drawn downward from the point of the buttocks should fall in line with the center of the hock, cannon, pastern, and foot: 17, represents the correct conformation; 18, bow-legged; 19, base narrow; 20, base wide; 21, cow-hocked and toes out—very serious fault.

front leg and a striding front leg or between a supporting hindleg and a striding hindleg.

Brushing—slight interference.

Striking—severe interference resulting in an open wound.

Paddling—an outward deviation in the direction of the stride of the foreleg, the result of a narrow- or pigeon-toed standing position. (See figure 5.)

Winging—exaggerated paddling, very noticeable in high stepping horses.

Winding—twisting the front leg around in front of the supporting leg as each stride is taken; sometimes called threading, plaiting, or rope-walking.

Scalping—hitting the hind foot above or at the line of the hair (coronet) against the toe of a breaking over (beginning the next stride) forefoot.

Speedy-cutting—occurs when a trotter or pacer traveling at speed hits the hindleg above the scalping mark and against the shoe of a breaking over forefoot. In trotters, legs on the same side are involved. In pacers, diagonal legs are involved.

Cross-firing—essentially the same as forging in a pacer in which the inside of the near fore and hind-

leg (or the reverse) strike in the air as the stride of the hindleg is about completed and the stride of the foreleg is just beginning.

Pointing—a stride with extension more pronounced than flexion. A horse guilty of a pointed stride breaks or folds his knees very slightly and is low-gaited in front. Thoroughbreds at the trot are pointy-gaited. The term pointing is also used to indicate the standing position pose a horse frequently takes when afflicted with navicular bone disease or injury to the foot or leg: he stands on three legs and points with the fourth.

Dwelling—a perceptible pause in the flight of the foot as though the stride had been completed before the foot strikes the ground. It may occur either front or rear and is particularly common in heavy harness horses, heavy show ponies, and some saddlers.

Trappy—a quick, high, but comparatively short stride.

Pounding—a heavy contact with the ground, usually accompanying a high, laboring stride.

Rolling—excessive lateral shoulder motion in wide-fronted horses.

Unsoundnesses, Blemishes, Ailments

Basically an unsoundness is any condition that interferes or is apt to interfere with the function and performance of the horse. In horse show halter classes, horses with unsoundness usually do not place. However, in performance classes if the apparent unsoundness is not interfering with the horse's action, it is given little consideration. A blemish differs from an unsoundness in that it is unsightly, but does not and is not apt to interfere with the horse's performance.

A lame horse is obviously unsound. Why is he lame? Is the condition temporary or will it intensify? Horses may be lame due to some disease or affliction in the joints, tendons, ligaments, or muscles. Usually lameness from these causes can't be seen and calls for a diagnosis by a highly skilled veterinarian. Conversely, many unsoundnesses or indications of unsoundness can be seen. Many unsoundnesses and blemishes are due to excessive stress and strain beyond the endurance of the bone or muscle; injury to a bone or joint; or nutritional deficiencies.

The following list covers many of the usual unsoundnesses, blemishes, and ailments:

Ankylosis—when exostosis (bony growth) is sufficiently extensive to interfere with a joint and reduce movement.

Bad mouth—top and bottom teeth don't meet (a malocclusion). The lower jaw and tooth structure may extend beyond the top teeth (monkey mouth) or the top jaw and incisor teeth extend beyond the lower jaw (parrot mouth). It is considered an inherited unsoundness.

Blindness—a disqualification.

Bog spavin—serious discrimination, a soft fluctuating enlargement located at the upper part of the hock and due to a distension of the joint capsule.

Bowed tendon—serious discrimination involving any or all of a group of tendons and ligaments, but usually the superflexor tendon, the deep flexor tendon and the suspensory ligament. Caused by severe strain and wear and shows up as a thickened enlargement of the tendon which occupies the posterior space in the cannon region between the knee and ankle or between the hock and ankle. Usually occurs on the front legs. The lameness that accompanies an acute condition may not be permanent.

Capped hocks, knees, and elbows—swellings caused by injury; results in excessive secretion of the

synovial fluid. Capped elbow is sometimes called shoe boil.

Cocked ankles—serious discrimination. The horse walks over on his toe; usually occurs on rear ankles.

Corns—bruised and discolored areas of the sole of the foot. Usually located in the angle between the bars of the foot and the hoof wall and may cause lameness. (See figure 11.)

Curb—an enlargement below the hock on the back side.

Exostosis—bony growth (spur), result of the inflammation of the bone which causes the throwing out of bone cells.

Fistula—lesion or sore on the withers.

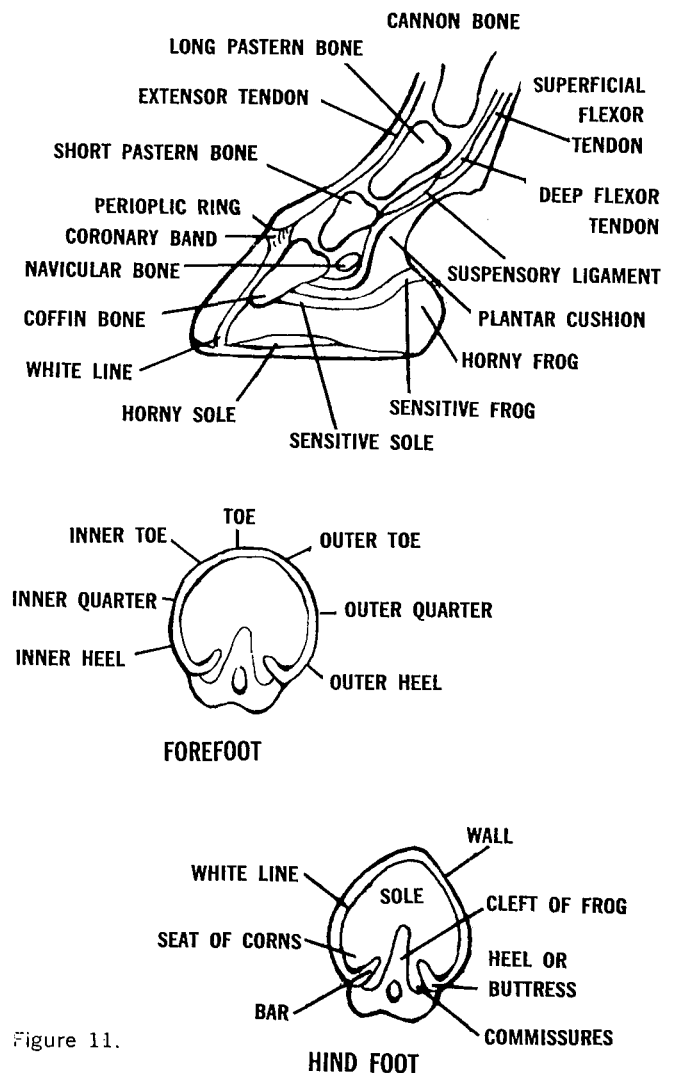


Figure 11.

A detailed cross section of the foot shows location of ligaments and pastern bones. The bottom view shows various areas of the foot.

Glass eye or Clydesdale eye—iris of the eye is colorless. Undesirable, but is not in itself an unsoundness as it does not affect vision.

Heaves or broken wind—the horse can't expell all the air from his lungs and uses abdominal muscles trying to do this. It's a disqualification.

Hip down—due to injury and will cause lameness where there is still inflammation in the hip. It's a blemish.

Jack or bone spavin—disqualification, is located in the inner lower aspect of the hock.

Laminitis or founder—inflammation of the laminae of the horse's hoof from foaling disease, too much feed, or fever.

Lymphangitis or big leg—inflammation of the lymphatic vessels of the hindleg.

Navicular disease—chronic inflammation which affects the navicular bone, the navicular sac, and the flexor tendon of the foot. The disease can't be seen, but the horse is apt to go lame and usually "points" with the afflicted foot.

Periodic ophthalmia or moon blindness—an inflammation of the inner eye. It usually impairs vision and treatment is usually unsuccessful.

Poll evil—a fistula on the poll, difficult to heal, caused by injury.

Quarter or toe crack—a vertical split in the horny wall of the hoof. The crack extends from the coronet or hoof head downwards. Usual causes are improper shoeing and too dry feet, coupled with excessive stress such as racing.

Quittor—festering of the foot anywhere along the border of the coronet: may result from a calk wound, neglected corn, gravel, or nail puncture.

Ringbone—exostosis or bony enlargement on the pastern bones, front or rear—unsoundness.

Roaring—noise in breathing when inhaling, due to paralysis of one of the cartilages of the larynx.

Scratches or grease heel—low-grade infection or form of eczema in the skin follicles around the fetlock. It is caused by filthy stables and unsanitary conditions.

Sidebone—hardening of the lateral cartilages on the coronet; frequently occurs in draft horses, seldom in light-leg types.

Splint—a bony enlargement of the inner cannon, front or rear. Usually these don't interfere with a horse's action and are blemishes.

Stifled—a displaced patella (similar to man's kneecap) of the stifle joint. It sometimes cripples the horse permanently.

Stringhalt or stringiness or crampiness—an unsoundness, ill-defined disease of the nervous system characterized by sudden lifting or jerking upward of one or both of the hindlegs. It is most obvious when the horse takes the first step or two.

Sweeny—term applied to wasting away of the shoulder muscle overlying the scapula of the horse. It is generally due to an injury or strain.

Thoroughpin—a soft fluctuating enlargement located in the hollows just above the hock. It is due to a distention of the synovial bursa. A discrimination.

Thrush—inflammation of the fleshy frog of the foot, blackish in color, foul smelling, and associated with filthy stalls.

Windgalls or road puffs—soft enlargements located at the ankle joints and due to enlargement of the synovial (lubricating) sacs.

Other Important Traits

Besides preferring a specific breed, other traits are equally important if the horse or pony is to provide a maximum of satisfaction to the owner and have a maximum resale value. The following points should be considered:

Disposition and manners—a horse with more fire and spirit than the owner can manage is a poor choice regardless of its breed.

Freedom from vices such as kicking, bolting, cribbing (biting the manger or feed box while swallowing large amounts of air), stall walking, weaving, refusing to take the bit or the saddle, and tail rubbing—these vices all reduce the value of the horse and sometimes make it impossible to manage.

Size—a large man riding a small horse is simply inappropriate.

Training—a well trained horse is the result of hours and months of schooling by someone who has the knowledge, ability, and patience to convert a green, uncoordinated animal to a show or pleasure mount: one that will respond to the rider's leg, hand, and voice cues. Not every aspiring rider has the ability to train a horse. Thus, training, beyond breaking to ride and to lead, naturally adds considerable to the horse's value.